

CNN - SHOWDOWN IRAQ - THE BRINK OF WAR (3-17-2003)

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From March 17th, 2003 CNN SPECIAL REPORT on the eve of the start of the Iraq War.

- Coverage runs from 7:00 P.M E.T - 9:57 P.M E.T

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showdown iraq on the brink of war president bush prepares to speak to the nation and the world clearly will issue an ultimatum to sodom hussein two choices exile or war and not much time to choose war is always a catastrophe live from the u.n paris london and moscow why diplomacy's failed so far and live from kuwait israel jordan and the white house when would a war start and how will the world react well good evening i'm aaron brown and the country is very much on the brink of war tonight a war that will touch hundreds of thousands of american families their sons and daughters will wage it and perhaps change the face of both the middle east and diplomacy as we've come to know it and i'm judy woodruff in one hour president bush goes on nationwide television with a great deal at stake he is expected to deliver a final ultimatum to iraqi president saddam hussein along with our correspondents wolf blitzer and christian amann in kuwait we are going to take you around the world both before and after the president speaks the question on everyone's mind tonight when would a war start we may not be able to answer that exactly but by the time the president finishes we'll have a very good idea of when it will start and much more we begin with our senior white house correspondent john king john good evening good evening to you aaron one hour from now from what is called the cross halls in the white house resident president bush will tell the iraqi president saddam hussein he has 48 hours two days to give up power and leave iraq along with about 100 of his top deputies or else the united states and its allies will be prepared to launch military action to disarm iraq of its weapons of mass destruction and to dislodge saddam

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mass destruction and to dislodge saddam hussein from power we are told the president's remarks will run about 15 minutes that the president will assert despite his many critics today that he has legal standing under existing united nations resolutions to go to war the president we are told also will tell the iraqi people that once saddam hussein is removed from power the riches of that country principally of its oil will be used to build what the president will voice hope will be a vibrant new democracy in the middle east again though the headline tonight mr bush will tell saddam hussein he has just 48 hours to give up power or face a u.s led invasion you see the president here the one bit we did see of him today taking a break from his preparations to play with his dogs barney and spot on the south grounds white house officials told us the president twice practiced this speech today he also had some urgent meetings late this afternoon with the leadership of congress and other key members of congress at that meeting mr bush promised that once a military action begins he will quickly ask for emergency spending that could total up to 100 billion dollars to pay for the war and its immediate aftermath that emergency spending request could go up to capitol hill as early as next week now as the president prepared to deliver these remarks tonight he was briefed by his national security team briefed as well by his domestic terrorism team and as the president prepares to send the country to war possibly as early as wednesday night the administration is considering poised to raise the threat level here at

home for more on that our homeland security correspondent gene reserves john a conference call has been scheduled tonight for a half hour from now between tom ridge the secretary of the department of homeland security and the nation's governors and their homeland security officials a sign that the nation's threat alert status will be upgraded tonight to orange it would be a surprise if the threat level did not go up officials at every level of government have assumed for weeks and even months that imminent war would trigger the change and planning for such a contingency has been going on for months homeland security sources tell me there is increased intelligence chatter

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there is increased intelligence chatter that makes them concerned but no specific information about a terrorist attack several officials say their number one concern is a conventional attack by a suicide bomber for instance virtually all of the dozens of known islamic extremists who are not in custody are under intense surveillance tonight but there is concern about thousands of other iraqi sympathizers who may strike out on their own and concerned about al-qaeda one official telling me we have 80 percent of the bad actors rounded up it's the other 20 that they can't find and those that they don't know about that i'm worried about the officials to whom i have spoken in several states say they expect security will be somewhat more intense than at other periods when the country has been at orange but they're waiting to hear what secretary ridge tells them tonight at the federal level you can expect many of the same sorts of measures you've seen in the past increased border security increased airport security and so forth judy aaron back to you okay gene thank you very much and that's all scheduled to happen uh after the president speaks tonight and as uh jean said it would be surprising if it did not uh for months now it seems the focus of all of this even as the buildup in the persian gulf has gone on has been the diplomatic efforts diplomatic efforts at the state department diplomatic efforts at the united nations as well richard roth covers the united nations for us richard aaron uh here at the un as we know the questions have been when is the vote who will vote how will someone vote how will cameroon vote well it all doesn't matter right now because the us uk and spain said they weren't going to put their resolution to the test they're going to rely on 1441 a resolution passed in november supported by the full security council but throughout the day here after this move a lot of bitter recriminations it was a test and it's most regrettable as we said earlier

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as we said earlier that in light of the explicit uh decision of one country to exercise its veto it was uh not possible to move this resolution forward i think everybody know very well in the council and i think here in the u.n is that the draft resolution was sponsored by united states uk and spain does not get or did not get support in the council the majority of the members of the council consider that it is not justified it is not legitimate to authorize the use of force most members of the council when we discussed the consultations the situation today uh supported the continuation of inspections and clearly stated that the peaceful uh solution to the problem still exists and that the possibilities for disarmament through inspections have not been exhausted when the council is divided like the way it is now uh it's a sad moment for for the u.n and our vision of the world a lot of disappointment here among diplomats but now the united nations will do what it probably does best humanitarian care for the ex expected flood of refugees and the post-war reconstruction and reconciliation of iraq secretary general annan also ordering out 330 u.n staff members including weapons inspectors and humanitarian aid officials aaron well richard it's a it must be a very difficult day over there because no matter how you slice it and dice it a system that is supposed to work a system that's supposed to prevent this sort of thing did not didn't work and for years yeah and for years uh after the gulf war and before it there was this grand coalition most votes were 15 to nothing they were pre-cooked in the back rooms when they came out at the table everybody's hands went in the air on a variety of issues but you started

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on a variety of issues but you started to see it slide in 1999 with kosovo the us fearing a russian veto acted on its own with a coalition of the willing and went ahead and now we're seeing part two of that a lot of anger here between france us and uk and a lot of worries about what it means for the u.s european relationship and un relevance richard thank you richard roth that the united nations tonight over time historians will write about all of this why it happened the way it happened why it wasn't why there was not a diplomatic solution we don't have the benefit of that sort of time we go to the state department and our state department correspondent andrea coppel it must be a difficult day over there as well secretary of state is being criticized in some quarters for this failure also that's right uh aaron and infect secretary powell was a little defensive earlier today when he took reporters questions here at the state department one reporter asked him does he wish he had done anything differently does he wish perhaps he had traveled more and he said you know there's a whole bunch of ways that you can do diplomacy you do your job by personal contact by contact by travel and by the use of modern technology so that you can get more bang for the time he then proceeded to kind of list all the face-to-face meetings that he had had with various foreign ministers from the permanent five up in up in new york and turkish officials over in davos switzerland but in point of fact aaron secretary of state powell has not traveled as much as the man who had the job during the persian gulf war was and that was uh former secretary of state james baker he was always on the plane so as you just said there historians will judge whether or not perhaps this could have been done differently aaron andrea thank you andrea campbell at the state department and as this goes on tonight we'll check back with

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goes on tonight we'll check back with her as well and we will and our wolf blitzer uh who miraculously is in kuwait city today after having been in washington uh yesterday wolf uh while all the diplomacy has been going on the military has been getting ready now something like 250 000 uh allied troops in the region and we're told they're ready they're not only ready there most of them are here in kuwait about a third of this country now has basically been put on the sidelines as u.s british forces prepare to move into iraq they're only waiting for the order from the commander-in-chief on the streets you wouldn't necessarily know there's all this tension people here are a little bit nervous but they're not leaving there's no panic people are not fleeing they recognize that saddam hussein at least most kuwaitis saddam hussein must go one way or another there's a lot of bitterness here in kuwait as a result of the iraqi invasion and occupation of kuwait a dozen years ago but people are getting ready for the worst there's no doubt about that meanwhile not far away in baghdad there are signs people there believe war is surely on the way while u.n weapons inspectors are pulling out of iraq leaving the country is a choice the iraqi people don't have but some are fleeing the capital city of baghdad others indeed are hunkering down cnn's nick robertson remains in baghdad and has the latest well there are 134 un inspection staff here 56 of them un inspectors they are now expecting to leave in the early hours of tuesday morning they will be joined very likely by many other un staff from baghdad and around iraq they will we are told be leaving by plane from baghdad's main international airport in the early hours of tuesday morning from there they will likely fly to cyprus for the people of iraq when they see these inspectors and the other un staff go it will very likely remind them of operation desert fox in 1998

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them of operation desert fox in 1998 when u.n staff were pulled out of iraq before airstrikes then very likely another clear signal for the people here that war isn't far away certainly what we have seen the people stocking up food from the shops here many other store owners in fact closing down their stores taking up taking their stocks out in some cases electronics goods in some stores but even stores selling fruit and vegetables have been closing down battling down the hatches in preparation for this for the very likely war that most people assess is coming political reaction also to the fact that the u.n weapons inspectors are leaving very acidic reaction coming from the foreign minister here naji sabri saying that it was regretful that the u.n weapons inspectors and un staff were pulling out also saying that there was a violation of the u.n charter a violation of u.n resolution 687 but when asked about whether or not president saddam hussein would step down and move out of iraq uh the foreign minister said that it was president bush who should go the only option is the departure of the war monger number one in the world the failing president bush who

made his country a joke in the world who made his administration isolated in the world who made the united states public enemy number one he should depart certainly it seems as far as iraqi officials are concerned the end of the diplomatic road appears to have been reached criticism not only of president bush we've heard that many times but criticism of the u.n secretary general kofi annan it very much seems now as if iraq just preparing itself for war had been keeping its options open cooperating with the u.n weapons inspectors those inspectors now on the verge of leaving very much iraq now concentrating on preparing for war nick robertson cnn baghdad and nick will be remaining in baghdad covering the coming days for cnn with me

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covering the coming days for cnn with me here in kuwait city our own christian amanpour there's so many similarities to what was the mood a dozen years ago on the eve of the first gulf war but there are many differences as well i think the difference is wolf are so striking that it's worth talking about i mean we were all 12 years ago covering the beginning of the gulf war there was an enormous coalition that george bush the first had gotten we've talked just a few minutes ago about how history may write about the diplomacy and really the unprecedented failure of diplomacy that we've just seen collapse before our eyes are many newspapers in the united states and in europe are already writing about what they believe to have been an inept show of diplomacy by the united states where the united states alienated so many of its allies and you know caused itself to be isolated so different to what we saw 12 years ago i think notable 12 years ago though in terms of who was isolated while the us had this enormous coalition jordan was one of the countries that did not join the united states preferred to stay out of that coalition and many blamed jordan and isolated the king of jordan back then king hussein for being pro-saddam well today it's a little bit different king abdullah ii of jordan months ago said that he believed war was now inevitable and he has been doing pretty much everything he can to make the best of what may be a difficult situation for jordan for all sorts of different reasons jordan has said that they will grant overflight rights for certain support aircraft not combat aircraft and also they have patriot missile batteries to ward off against potential iraqi scud attacks and there are american troops there there is also a small town in jordan the last town before you get to iraq called rueshid well right now is turned into quite a metropolis as a lot of military action focuses there and that's where we find our rule i mean christian russian as you said is the lost town before travelers get to the iraqi border baghdad is only five hours away on the road from here and people

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away on the road from here and people here are very apprehensive very concerned from the fallouts of this war just 10 minutes up the road from here the refuge there is a refugee camp that is being prepared two of them to receive any refugees that would flee iraq in case there is a war the united nations are estimating that there is about 600 000 people who will be trying to clean iraq in case of war and some of them will be heading this way at the same time jordanians are very angry very apprehensive and very frustrated many of them don't see the point of this war they don't abide the justification for it and they are concerned that the iraqi civilians will end up paying a very high price for it at the same time there's a lot of frustration a feeling of impotence that they are unable to do anything to stop it and that's why the government here has to walk a very tight rope a very tight line in order to accommodate the people's needs to see the government stand and reflect their views at the same time the government says its relationship with the united states is strategic and doesn't intend to let the differences over iraq undermine that relationship christian rule of thanks and certainly will be keeping our eye on jordan west of iraq and see what develops there in the next several days but right now we go back to aaron and judy in washington christian thank you the president speaks in about 44 minutes from now within the past hour there was a white house briefing for congressional leaders number of prominent democrats made no secret of their disdain today for the president's efforts at international diplomacy for example the senate minority leader tom daschle i'm saddened saddened that this president failed so miserably at diplomacy that we're now forced to war saddened that we have to give up one life because this president couldn't create the kind of diplomatic effort

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create the kind of diplomatic effort that was so critical for our country but we will work and we will do all that we can to get through this crisis like we've gotten through so many tom daschle's view not necessarily dick gephardt's view the congressman from missouri and one of the democratic presidential hopefuls joins us tonight good evening do you agree with tom daschle that the president just essentially abandoned diplomacy here to forge ahead well there's plenty of time later to point fingers and to figure out what went wrong with what but tonight is a night for us to unite our country and to have our thoughts and prayers for our young people out there in the gulf i've said many times that we've got to keep our people safe and to do that i think we've got to disarm saddam hussein and make sure that components of weapons of mass destruction don't wind up in the hands of terrorists that's what this has always been about and that's what i hope we can achieve i wish the un had been behind this but that didn't come to pass and we've got to do what is right to do and i hope our young people do it safely does the administration bear any responsibility for the inability to get set aside the french for a second and the veto question to get nine votes out of the security council the united states of america could not persuade nine other countries to sign on it was obviously complicated by the veto threats that was a problem i'm sure i think they might have been able to get the nine votes had that not become a problem uh you got to go back to last year uh the president and some members of the administration last august were saying they probably didn't need to go to the u.n a lot of us told them very strongly that we thought they needed to go to the un i negotiated the language into the resolution that said they would go to the un and they've been there for four months and they have worked to try to get the un lined up

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get the un lined up i wish they would have uh they didn't and now we've got to unite in this country and and get done what is important to keep our people safe that's what this is about how much does president bush risk by doing what he's doing at this point do you see this as a risky move on his part anytime you use force and have to go to war there's risk involved and we all know that but there are things you have to do to keep the people of this country safe i'm sure there was disagreement about sending forces to afghanistan there was agreement that we needed to do that i call it self-defense again 9 11 was a the ultimate wake-up call and from then we know that we face a terrible threat we cannot have a weapon of mass destruction detonated in this country it is unthinkable we've got to do everything in our power to prevent that from happening and that's what this and other things that we're having to do or about there are a lot of other things we need to do to make sure that happens we're going to be talking about that in the days ahead but for tonight we got to unite the country we've got to we've got to have in our thoughts and prayers our young people well moments like this um thankfully at least for a while the country does unite everybody seems to particularly uh in the post-vietnam era understand there's difference between soldiers and policy and i think all of our thoughts are with those 250 000 american young men and women who are overseas are we going to find do you believe the country will find itself in an almost perpetual state of antagonism with one country or another iran next korea north korea after that is that where the 21st century is headed well i hope not i hope we can have a successful policy and trying to deal with these problems around the world we

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with these problems around the world we should be worried as a recent report said about what's happening with weapons of mass destruction in russia in pakistan and lots of places around the world this is a complicated and difficult world we now live in and we got lots of challenges we got to prevent young people from deciding to become terrorists we've got to worry about spreading democratic values across the world there are a lot of things we need to do but the first order of business right now is uniting the country keeping weapons of mass destruction out of the hands of terrorists and keeping our people safe we cannot have another 911 and we gotta all work together as best we can to make sure that's done much more complicated world than a lot of people thought at the end of the cold war absolutely congressman it's nice to see you thanks for coming tonight congressman kephart of missouri and his view on that israel of course for those of you with good memories will recall became a target during the last gulf war stunned missiles landing there next in this special report we'll go live to tel aviv for a look at how the israelis are preparing for war the

president speaks in about 40 minutes [Music] welcome back to our special coverage we're only a little bit more than a half an hour away from president bush's speech to the nation a speech in which he's expected to give saddam hussein 48 hours to go into exile or face the possibility of war israel's home front command today told the nation's citizens to get ready for war for more on those preparations let's go to tel aviv cnn's kelly wallace is standing by kelly wolfe the move by the israeli military is described as precautionary urging citizens to get all the equipment they'll need to prepare a sealed off room also known as a safe room in the event of a chemical or biological attack

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event of a chemical or biological attack many israelis responding heading to the stores to buy duct tape and plastic what the military though did not do is urge citizens to go ahead and prepare that safe room now that is likely to come when officials believe an american attack on baghdad is about to begin on a sad note the conflict has already claimed three israeli lives according to police a mother and her two teenage sons suffocated to death after they spent the night in their safe room now israel's defense minister shaol mo faz today is urging israelis to go on with their lives he says the probability of an iraqi attack on israel is very low and according to a poll published last week a majority of israelis agree still mofaz is saying that unlike 1991 when israel did not retaliate for the 39 iraqis cut attacks he says if iraq attacks this time israel has a right to defend itself other signs this country is bracing for a possible war in the region israeli military sources say a small number of reservists have been called up to staff some anti-aircraft units and the state department has ordered all non-essential diplomats and their families to leave the country the u.s has issued that same order for kuwait and that's where we go now to my colleague christian amanpour in kuwait city christiane kelly indeed this is one of the most dangerous locations because it is the staging point for about a quarter million troops and of course not only the u.s but the british as well have asked all their non-essential and all their citizens to leave and leave as quickly as possible as for britain prime minister tony blair who has staked so much in supporting the president president bush it's costing him a great deal at home already one cabinet minister has resigned and he will put his policy to a vote in parliament tomorrow we're going to finla sweeney in london for more on what blair is doing

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what blair is doing well indeed christiane it has been quite a day here in london politically speaking an emergency cabinet meeting to discuss a possible war the resignation of a cabinet minister and a very troubling day for the prime minister tony blair he's in quite a bit of trouble with many of his own party it was left to his foreign secretary jack straw to go to the house of commons this evening and make his government's case for a possible war against iraq in a speech to parliamentarians he put the blame for the failure of diplomacy at the united nations firmly on the shoulders of france you may recall that many people here in britain oppose a war against iraq without a second united nations resolution however the night in the house of commons belonged to that cabinet minister who resigned robin cook in a rousing speech which received an ovation from members of the house he said it was not the fault of france that diplomacy had failed it is not france alone that wants more time inspections germany wants more time inspections russia wants more time for inspections indeed at no time have we signed up even the minimum necessary to carry a second resolution we delude ourselves if we think that the degree of international hostility is all the result of president shirak the reality is that britain is being asked to embark on a war without agreement in any of the international bodies of which we are a leading partner not nato not the european union and now not the security council to end up in such diplomatic weakness is a serious reverse and a note for u.s viewers before he sat down he said what had come to trouble him most over the past week is a

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him most over the past week is a suspicion that if the hanging chads in florida had gone the other way and al gore had been elected we would not quote be now about to commit british troops to war there will be an emergency debate on a motion proposed by the government to launch a war in iraq against iraq that will be

held on tuesday evening about 24 hours from now some 166 members of tony blair's own labour party expected to resist and vote against that motion christiane finula thank you and of course because tony blair has so closely staked his policy to george bush the president of the united states tried a few ways to help him out to give him cover the summit in the azores for instance the attempt to reach out to the palestinians and the israelis in terms of potentially publishing the road map most of that was done to try to shore up tony blair but as fanula says there may be more of his ministers and more of his labor mps voting against him when this comes to a cabinet vote tomorrow but perhaps not enough to cause him a really serious crisis in the short term back to you erin thank you christiane certainly the two men president bush and tony blair had very different uh political problems as they took a look at this and how to deal with iraq and how to deal with the diplomacy the president will speak to the nation and the world about 30 minutes from now at the top of the hour eight o'clock eastern time in our special report the leaders of the international opposition to war we will check in on the french on the russians and the chinese when our special report continues [Music] 20 minutes from now the president united states speaks to the country and to the world there is an exquisite tension

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tension in the air tonight and aaron if there's one country that the united states has blamed for the fact that diplomacy failed it is france cnn's christian amanpour uh talked to just over the last day or so with the leader of france president jacques chirac and christiane i think when you talk to him you gotta we all got a better understanding of where the french are coming from in all this yes judy you know he knows that he's been blamed and often in first name ways impassioned impatient uh comments coming from both the uk and us leadership about france's obstructionism on this issue they call it but of course what he says and from his point of view the french simply don't believe that all the time has run out for diplomacy and for the inspections to work and he also says that we are not uh automatically against war we are not pacifists we will shoulder our responsibilities but it should be up to the inspectors and of course he did tell me in this interview yesterday that they would give 30 days for the inspections to work or reach an impasse and then consider joining a coalition of war that of course was swiftly rejected by vice president dick cheney yesterday morning uh and jack shirak spoke quite a lot about the warnings he felt he wanted to give to the united states from my experience on the international political stage i'm telling my american friends beware be careful think it over seriously before you take action that is not necessary and that can be very dangerous especially in the fight against international terrorism which we are really working hard on on the eve of what looks like war what do you have to say to president bush who you call a friend

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i just want to tell him that i don't share his views that i don't approve of his initiative and of course i hope that things run as smoothly as possible and there is peaceful disarmament but if we have to have a war let there be as few dramas and as little destruction as possible i got the impression after speaking to president shirak that the french believe that the us had pretty much made up their mind on a military option long before the diplomacy collapsed and certainly from other french and other european officials i get the impression from conversations that essentially all sides may have played some of their cards wrong boxed themselves into diplomatic corners that they eventually couldn't get out of and eventually couldn't reach a compromise judy christian uh after this what it when when you talk with the french how hard do they say it is going to be to patch back relations together with the united states well it depends on who you talk to i spoke extensively about that to president shirak and he insisted that despite the differences they have right now that france and the united states have a long he said 200 years of friendship and these tensions right now he called them superficial and not deep rooted but of course from the united states you get a different message that what has happened is deeply wounding and certainly from other french people you hear and from experts you do hear a sense of worry that this may have put a very very deep division between the two countries and of course contributes this this disagreement strong disagreement between the united states and france contributes to potential long-term damage to the transatlantic alliances nato the u.n and to some lesser extent the eu as well christian you're absolutely right the

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christian you're absolutely right the the two views couldn't be more different it's everything but contempt although here in washington when when you talk to bush administration officials about the french christian almond poor and of course that interview christian did was for cbs 60 minutes it aired on sunday night meantime another opponent of this war russia's president vladimir putin today said that this war is illegal it would be illegal if it happens and he said it's a mistake that could undermine world security for more on russian attitudes we go to cnn's moscow bureau chief jill dougherty hi jill well judy president putin does believe that this is a mistake he said it today the first time that we've actually heard from him literally in weeks he said that it's a mistake fraught with the greatest consequences he said not only will there be casualties but it would actually undermine the international situation we also heard from igor even off the foreign minister saying that there is no justification legally for taking military action and he said specifically resolution 1441 does not include this type of uh authority for taking military action but at the same time that you have the russian position still very negative about this you do have some fence mending uh in terms of the relationship with the united states today an interview with the uh deputy foreign minister george who is a specialist by the way in relations with the united states he was saying that russia if the united states does take military action will not be stirring up any anti-american campaign and he noted that the relationship between russia and the united states is too important as he put it to uh have it held hostage to disagreements over iraq but already we're getting some

[00:36:00 \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tvqb9nJrVVA&t=2160s\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tvqb9nJrVVA&t=2160s)

but already we're getting some indication that there may be some problems late news tonight that the russian dumas parliament may not bring up for consideration the treaty of moscow that is that agreement on strategic weapons between the united states and russia it was approved by the senate unanimously just the past week and now russia is saying they may put off considering that back to you judy well that is interesting that would be a direct effect from this uh uh situation on iraq because there was no indication that that was going to happen uh before today all right jill doherty in moscow thanks so erin we're already seeing uh fallout potentially here there is not a major player in the world who has not been impacted by this extraordinary four-month period every one of them the russians the french the germans the british certainly and the chinese as well this comes at a very awkward time for the chinese beijing has opposed military action beijing lined up with the french and the germans and the others to say that inspectors ought to give more time but at the same time this is going on the chinese find themselves in the middle of political change of their own new leaders have been sworn in in just the last couple of days in many respects it's a new generation of chinese leadership their relationship with the united states for economic reasons is extraordinarily important they weren't looking for any enemies to make either in this but nevertheless they came out against the american position we go now to beijing and our bureau chief there jaime flor cruz good evening aaron the streets in beijing seem common normal even as the chinese national parliament prepares to end its annual session in about two hours time the newly installed prime minister will give his first press conference but even those are overshadowed by the iraq

[00:38:01 \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tvqb9nJrVVA&t=2281s\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tvqb9nJrVVA&t=2281s)

those are overshadowed by the iraq crisis as this morning's headlines in beijing shows it reads the iraq crisis has already reached its final stage noting that the us the uk and spain have abandoned their plans to put a new resolution to vote and that the u.s have already moved a lot of airplanes into northern kuwait and that the chinese diplomats and journalists have been evacuated out of baghdad most chinese here are still hoping that the war can be avoided as the newly installed foreign minister said he is keeping his fingers crossed for peace judy i mean we have not heard uh from the chinese they've been very quiet certainly compared to the french and the others why is that well the chinese are caught between the united states they want to keep a very cordial relations with the united states and they don't want to stand in the way of what they want to do but at the same time they're also champion the so-called third world the arab cause and they don't want to be seen as pro-american on this one judy all right jaime floor cruz uh in beijing and as you said

aaron every country uh that is a major player in the world is uh deeply involved in this decision to go to war whether they're sending troops or not and in the nature of our time is that every country or virtually every country is so connected whether it's economics or security any of these issues they are all connected they all need each other at the end of the day whatever the end of the day is going to be on this one it has been a fascinating thing to watch if the stakes weren't so high and they couldn't be higher president bush's speech begins just minutes from now as we continue waiting we are going to shift the focus from the millet from the diplomatic to the military

[00:40:00 \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tvgb9nJrVVA&t=2400s\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tvgb9nJrVVA&t=2400s)

military and next if war comes they will attack from the air but their toughest work will be on the ground this special continues in a moment we'll take a short break first [Music] just about 10 minutes away from a speech president bush addressing the nation on television giving saddam hussein a deadline and from the moment those words come off the president's lips the military planners will uh be even more nervous if you will than they have been because at that point they start to worry that saddam feeling that the war is coming may start one himself they've got all of these american troops mass now in kuwait so that is one of the concerns for planners while they are poised for action there there is information coming in now that the republican guard units this elite group of iraqi soldiers south of baghdad have been issued chemical munitions that's the report we're getting we go live to our senior pentagon correspondent jamie mcintyre jamie where is this report coming from how credible a report is it as we are almost literally on the eve of a war well erin this comes from a u.s intelligence gathering and u.s officials are quick to admit it is not conclusive it's not hard proof it's simply an indication uh that they believe a one loot unit at least one unit of the republican guard may be may have been issued chemical shells for their weapons they haven't seen the chemical weapons they haven't found the smoking gun this comes at a time when iraq is making a number of what appear to be defensive moves including dispersing republican guard units out of their garrison into areas where they could presumably try to survive the first wave of a u.s assault the

[00:42:01 \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tvgb9nJrVVA&t=2521s\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tvgb9nJrVVA&t=2521s)

the first wave of a u.s assault the question is would they be trying to live to fight another day or perhaps live to surrender another day the u.s just doesn't know they're continuing to see iraq make a lot of preparations for war while the u.s says essentially it is ready to go in just about every way aaron do we see anything different in the way the iraqis are preparing today as best we know it from how they prepared a dozen years ago because we all know what happened when the ground war at least started then well one thing we're seeing is that they've been continuing to build these trenches across the country and fill them with oil to light them on fire this doesn't really create a big problem for u.s bombs because they're not affected by the smoke it doesn't really create a big problem on the ground because you can simply go around these trenches so the pentagon is puzzling over exactly what they hope to accomplish what they fear is that iraq is going to try to create the impression with these big oil fires that schools or mosques or hospitals are on fire and burning because of the u.s strike and tried to turn public opinion but frankly when it comes to the military match-up iraq really doesn't have much of a chance against the force that's arrayed against it and just very very briefly is the sense still that the iraqi plan is to essentially withdraw to baghdad and try and make their stand if you will uh there yeah they have these circles of sea steel they call them concentric rings of defenses but the real question is is really will they fold or fight when they're really when the when the uh rubber meets the road jamie thank you we'll talk to you again after the president speaks coming up in a little bit jamie mcintyre so many interesting questions raised by this aaron because uh you know we think the u.s has so many more uh so much more power so much more military might a raid against this country of iraq and yet there are still uncertainties about this war it may be over quickly but the outcome of each and every battle is

[00:44:00 \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tvgb9nJrVVA&t=2640s\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tvgb9nJrVVA&t=2640s)

the outcome of each and every battle is not going to be known until it happens well and i just know from when we were in kuwait now i guess three weeks ago one of the things you can plan for a lot in these and hopefully your planning is good but one of the things you can't plan for is bad luck and bad luck happens uh accidents happen a missile as we learned in the first gulf war it's a mess hall and lots of people die that you can't plan for president bush coming up just about five minutes from now and we're going to take a short break we'll be right back there are more than 200 000 u.s troops now deployed to the region another 40 000 british troops and two thousand australian forces as well among the troops deployed the us army's 101st airborne division seen as ryan chilcote is with them they're called the screaming eagles he joins us now live via videophone ryan uh no question what the troops expect from this speech they fully expect the president of the united states to give president saddam hussein an ultimatum and they fully expect president saddam hussein to fail that ultimatum these troops expect that they're going to be going to war in short time they expect that they're going to be shipping out of camp new jersey in the coming days should there be war now i just bumped into a soldier in the shower tent he said he's making his way as quickly as he can over to the mwr tent that's the morale wellness and recreation tennis place where the soldiers can play ping pong and where they can play uh card it's also a place where they can watch tv he said he's gonna watch this speech despite the fact that it is just 355 in the morning here he said he wouldn't miss this for the world this is historic this he says means they're going to be going to war and he says that's a good thing because there are a lot of soldiers spread throughout the desert that want to get this over as quickly as possible so they

00:46:00 (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tvgb9nJrVVA&t=2760s>)

this over as quickly as possible so they can get back home now what would the 101st do should there be military action in iraq well the 101st airborne specializes in air assault air assault means you move soldiers forward on the battlefield using helicopters we saw a rehearsal today a training exercise where the soldiers were practicing setting up what are called farps forward area refueling and re-arming points basically gigantic gas stations in the middle of the desert four helicopters helicopters come in they refuel and then they can go on from there once they've exhausted their fuel supply they land they can take those troops those infantry troops further into the battlefield but another a telling sign of what uh the soldiers might be asked to do should there be military action in iraq back to you ryan chilcote with 101st airborne thanks ryan very much and judy and aaron christian and i are going to be standing by here waiting like the rest of the world to hear precisely what president bush will say in the coming moments erin and judy well thank you you won't have to wait long we're two minutes a little less than that away from the president's speech there is in in our view i i guess no more serious moment than the one we are about to enter uh the country standing on the very edge of war and john king our senior white house correspondent who is at the white house tonight john this president has a lot riding not so much on the speech but on the military action that comes after it judy the president putting his presidency on the line here in a defining moment as we are just about a minute away we are told the president will tell saddam hussein he has 48 hours to leave power senior administration officials telling us that war could begin any time after that deadline lapses on wednesday night and that mr bush would deliver an oval office address shortly after he gave the orders to send any u.s troops into combat we also are told mr bush will take a small portion of his speech tonight expected to run about 15 minutes

00:48:01 (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tvgb9nJrVVA&t=2881s>)

tonight expected to run about 15 minutes to directly address the iraqi people telling them that when saddam hussein is removed from power they will be part of a vibrant new nation a nation mr bush will say can be a rich and well contributing member of the international community the president we are told will voice his frustration that he could not get the support of the united nations security council at this moment but he will also say that he believes he has authority under international law to go forward with a military confrontation that could begin as early as wednesday night you may hear some whistling and protesting here a small group perhaps two dozen protesters outside the white house gates as mr bush prepares to tell the american people war could be just two days away judy aaron a remarkable moment in international affairs the president aaron defying much of the world to go and push ahead with this military move for all the talk that has come the talk that is about to happen is the talk that matters the president of the united states about to

tell the country and the world that we are on the edge of war my fellow citizens events in iraq have now reached the final days of decision for more than a decade the united states and other nations have pursued patient and honorable efforts to disarm the iraqi regime without war that regime pledged to reveal and destroy all its weapons of mass destruction as a condition for ending the persian gulf war in 1991. since then the world has engaged in 12 years of diplomacy we have passed more than a dozen resolutions in the united nations security council we have sent hundreds of weapons inspectors to oversee the disarmament of iraq our good faith has not been returned the iraqi regime has used diplomacy as a ploy to gain time

[00:50:01 \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tvqb9nJrVVA&t=3001s\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tvqb9nJrVVA&t=3001s)

to gain time and advantage it has uniformly defied security council resolutions demanding full disarmament over the years u n weapon inspectors have been threatened by iraqi officials electronically bugged and systematically deceived peaceful efforts to disarm the iraqi regime have failed again and again because we are not dealing with peaceful men intelligence gathered by this and other governments leaves no doubt that the iraq regime continues to possess and conceal some of the most lethal weapons ever devised this regime has already used weapons of mass destruction against iraq's neighbors and against iraq's people the regime has a history of reckless aggression in the middle east it has a deep hatred of america and our friends and it has aided trained and harbored terrorists including operatives of al qaeda the danger is clear using chemical biological or one-day nuclear weapons obtained with the help of iraq the terrorists could fulfill their stated ambitions and kill thousands or hundreds of thousands of innocent people in our country or any other the united states and other nations did nothing to deserve or invite this threat but we will do everything to defeat it instead of drifting along toward tragedy we will set a course towards safety before the day of horror can come before it is too late to act this danger will be removed the united states of america has the sovereign authority to use force in assuring its own national security that duty falls to me as

[00:52:00 \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tvqb9nJrVVA&t=3120s\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tvqb9nJrVVA&t=3120s)

that duty falls to me as commander-in-chief by the oath i have sworn by the oath i will keep recognizing the threat to our country the united states congress voted overwhelmingly last year to support the use of force against iraq america tried to work with the united nations to address this threat because we wanted to resolve the issue peacefully we believe in the mission of the united nations one reason the u n was founded after the second world war was to confront aggressive dictators actively and early before they can attack the innocent and destroy the peace in the case of iraq the security council did act in the early 1990s under resolutions 678 and 687 both still in effect the united states and our allies are authorized to use force in reading iraq of weapons of mass destruction this is not a question of authority it is a question of will last september i went to the u n general assembly and urged the nations of the world to unite and bring an end to this danger on november 8th the security council unanimously passed resolution 1441 finding iraq and material breach of its obligations and vowing serious consequences if iraq did not fully and immediately disarm today no nation can possibly claim that iraq has disarmed and it will not disarm so long as saddam hussein holds power for the last four and a half months the united states and our allies have worked within the security council to enforce that council's long-standing demands yet some permanent members of the security council have publicly announced they will veto any resolution that compels the

[00:54:02 \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tvqb9nJrVVA&t=3242s\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tvqb9nJrVVA&t=3242s)

any resolution that compels the disarmament of iraq these governments share our assessment of the danger but not our resolve to meet it many nations however do have the resolve and fortitude to act against this threat to peace and a broad coalition is now gathering to enforce the just demands of the world the united nations security council has not lived up to its responsibilities so we will rise two hours in recent days some governments in the middle east have been doing their part they have delivered public and private messages urging the dictator to leave iraq so that disarmament can proceed peacefully he has thus far refused all the decades of deceit and cruelty have now reached an end saddam hussein and his sons must leave iraq within 48 hours their refusal to do so will result in military conflict commenced at a time of our choosing for their

own safety all foreign nationals including journalists and inspectors should leave Iraq immediately many Iraqis can hear me tonight in a translated radio broadcast and I have a message for them if we must begin a military campaign it will be directed against the lawless men who rule your country and not against you as our coalition takes away their power we will deliver the food and medicine you need we will tear down the apparatus of terror and we will help you to build a new Iraq that is prosperous and free in a free Iraq there will be no more wars of aggression against your neighbors no more poison factories no more executions of dissidents

[00:56:01 \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tvqb9nJrVVA&t=3361s\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tvqb9nJrVVA&t=3361s)

no more executions of dissidents no more torture chambers and rape rooms the tyrant will soon be gone the day of your liberation is near it is too late for Saddam Hussein to remain in power it is not too late for the Iraqi military to act with honor and protect your country by permitting the peaceful entry of coalition forces to eliminate weapons of mass destruction our forces will give Iraqi military units clear instructions on actions they can take to avoid being attacked and destroyed I urge every member of the Iraqi military and intelligence services if war comes do not fight for a dying regime that is not worth your own life and all Iraqi military and civilian personnel should listen carefully to this warning in any conflict your fate will depend on your actions do not destroy oil wells a source of wealth that belongs to the Iraqi people do not obey any command to use weapons of mass destruction against anyone including the Iraqi people war crimes will be prosecuted or criminals will be punished and it will be no defense to say I was just following orders [___] Saddam Hussein choose confrontation the American people can know that every measure has been taken to avoid war and every measure will be taken to win it Americans understand the cost of conflict because we have paid them in the past war has no certainty except the certainty of sacrifice yet the only way to reduce the harm and duration of war is to apply the full force and might of our military and we are prepared to do so

[00:58:00 \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tvqb9nJrVVA&t=3480s\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tvqb9nJrVVA&t=3480s)

and we are prepared to do so if Saddam Hussein attempts to cling to power he will remain a deadly foe until the end in desperation he and terrorist groups might try to conduct terrorist operations against the American people and our friends these attacks are not inevitable they are however possible and this very fact underscores the reason we cannot live under the threat of blackmail the terrorist threat to America and the world will be diminished the moment that Saddam Hussein is disarmed our government is on heightened watch against these dangers just as we are preparing to ensure victory in Iraq we are taking further actions to protect our homeland in recent days American authorities have expelled from the country certain individuals with ties to Iraqi intelligence services among other measures I have directed additional security at our airports and increased coast guard patrols of major seaports the Department of Homeland Security is working closely with the nation's governors to increase armed security at critical facilities across America should enemies strike our country they would be attempting to shift our attention with panic and weaken our morale with fear in this they would fail no act of theirs can alter the course or shake the resolve of this country we are a peaceful people yet we're not a fragile people and we will not be intimidated by thugs and killers if our enemies dare to strike us they and all who have aided them will face fearful consequences we are now acting because the risks of inaction would be far greater in one year or five years the power of Iraq to inflict harm on all

[01:00:00 \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tvqb9nJrVVA&t=3600s\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tvqb9nJrVVA&t=3600s)

the power of Iraq to inflict harm on all free nations would be multiplied many times over with these capabilities Saddam Hussein and his terrorist allies could choose the moment of deadly conflict when they are strongest we choose to meet that threat now where it arises before it can appear suddenly in our skies and cities the cause of peace requires all free nations to recognize new and undeniable realities in the 20th century some chose to appease murderous dictators whose threats were allowed to grow into genocide and global war in this century when evil men plot chemical biological and nuclear terror a policy of appeasement could bring destruction of a kind never before seen on this earth terrorists and terror states do not reveal

these threats with fair notice informal declarations and responding to such enemies only after they have struck first is not self-defense it is suicide the security of the world requires disarming saddam hussein now as we enforce the just demands of the world will also honor the deepest commitments of our country unlike saddam hussein we believe the iraqi people are deserving and capable of human liberty and when the dictator has departed they can set an example to all the middle east of a vital and peaceful and self-governing nation the united states with other countries will work to advance liberty and peace in that region our goal will not be achieved overnight but it can come over time the power and appeal of human liberty is felt in every life and every land and the greatest power of freedom is to overcome hatred and violence

[01:02:00 \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tvqb9nJrVVA&t=3720s\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tvqb9nJrVVA&t=3720s)

is to overcome hatred and violence and turn the creative gifts of men and women to the pursuits of peace that is the future we choose free nations have a duty to defend our people by uniting against the violent and tonight as we have done before america and our allies accept that responsibility good night and may god continue to bless america president tonight from the white house no matter how much you know in advance how no matter how literally you know the words that will be spoken until you hear them you don't appreciate the power of them before the day of horror can come before it is too late the danger saddam hussein will be removed well and the president made it very clear if it wasn't already clear aaron saddam hussein has 48 hours he and his son sons to get out of iraq and one line that struck me he said instead of drifting toward tragedy we are going to set a course toward safety he made this appear as if it's the world against saddam hussein he said the world is not safe the world is not secure unless we get rid of this man clearly there are many other leaders around the globe that disagree with the president about that they may disagree with the how to get rid of him or how to proceed i don't know the degree that they disagreed if i could construct that sentence on the danger of this particular person the dispute it seems has centered around the timing the how of all of this but in any case all of that the how of this seems uh well down the road now the how that's pretty clear 48 hours and then as the president said we will launch military conflict at a time of our choosing that will come most likely from the air and from kuwait where literally hundreds of thousands of

[01:04:00 \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tvqb9nJrVVA&t=3840s\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tvqb9nJrVVA&t=3840s)

where literally hundreds of thousands of americans are stationed tonight and wolf blitzer and christian amann are there as well powerful warnings to saddam hussein and powerful promises to the iraqi people from president bush but 12 years ago president bush's father made a similar declaration of war and the whole world was united with him arab troops were going to cross the border to get salam hussein out of iraq today the united states stands virtually isolated with just a couple of allies and the majority of the world right now before a gun has been fired before a bullet has been shot does not believe the united states is on the right course that of course may change once this gets underway and you know that christian the themes that the president articulated were very precise not only disarmament getting rid of saddam hussein's weapons of mass destruction but also regime change came through saddam hussein's days in baghdad are over with unless he leaves voluntarily over the next 48 hours and to back this up the president made clear that his doctrine of preemptive strikes going forward before anyone can do the u.s harm that remains very much on the table this is the president aaron and judy whose views were very much etched by 9 11. he's not about to let the united states get surprised once again that's why he's going to war against iraq you're right wolf and christiane frequent references there to uh terrorism to what would happen if weapons of mass destruction got into the wrong hands and in line with the terror concerns here in the united states cnn's jeanne missouri has an update now on a new development uh gene uh yes the threat level is now officially up to orange some statements now from the department of homeland security tom ridge saying their the the intelligence community believes that terrorists will attempt multiple attacks against u.s and coalition targets worldwide in the event of a u.s led

[01:06:00 \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tvqb9nJrVVA&t=3960s\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tvqb9nJrVVA&t=3960s)

worldwide in the event of a u.s led military campaign against saddam hussein the statement says a large volume of reporting across a range of sources some of which are highly reliable indicates that al qaeda probably would attempt to launch terrorist attacks against u.s interests by claiming that they are defending the muslim world and the iraqi people rather than the regime of saddam hussein there was a conference called this evening between a c.i.a official and the nation's governors and homeland security officers they tell them in that phone call the c i a official said that the intelligence community believes there is a near certainty of a large or small scale attack uh that would involve mass casualties economic impact psychological impact symbolic impact and that they do believe al qaeda is in the final stages of planning a large-scale attack overseas this cia official telling the nation's uh state homeland officials and governors that they believe that al qaeda will rationalize the use of chemical biological or radiological weapons based on the large number of casualties the u.s may inflict on this conflict in this call this official telling the states there's particular concerns about buildings subways and enclosed areas also concern not just about al qaeda but about sleeper agents iraqi sleeper agents who are proficient in assassination kidnappings and bombings and so a new security apparatus is being placed the name being given to it operation liberty shield back to you uh gene can you compare how sure they are about their sources about the credibility of their intelligence this time compared to the previous times when we've seen the threat levels raised well one homeland security official i spoke to was struck by the fact that there is unanimous agreement within the u.s intelligence community that involves the cia the nsa the fbi the defense intelligence agency all the intelligence arms of the united states government i'm

[01:08:00 \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tvgb9nJrVVA&t=4080s\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tvgb9nJrVVA&t=4080s)

arms of the united states government i'm told are in agreement this time all right gene missouri reporting that the threat level is now high having been raised immediately upon president bush's address to the nation and giving saddam hussein 48 hours to leave iraq with his sons or else there will be military action to remove him erin and said officials see it as almost a certainty that there will be at least an attempt at a large-scale terrorist attack on the united states or its interests home or abroad almost a certainty it's hard to get more sobering than that or anything else we've heard in the last 20 minutes or so our senior white house correspondent john king joins us again i imagine john it has been a remarkably sobering few days at the white house as this end game has become clear it has been indeed aaron yet administration officials some key lawmakers who met with the president today say they find him to be incredibly focused on the task at hand mr bush even took a little time earlier today to travel outside to play with his dogs taking a break from the preparations for this speech this is the president says a moment of truth for the world but certainly a moment of truth for the bush presidency he said in that 15-minute speech quote the tyrant will soon be gone this president about to set out on a military confrontation designed to remove saddam hussein from power this 12 years after his father as president of the united states set out on a military action to evict iraqi forces from kuwait many consider it still the unfinished business of the first persian gulf war to remove saddam hussein from power mr bush promising the iraqi people that was simply his goal and that they would soon have their country back there are many skeptics here in the united states and around the world that there will ever be this free and flourishing democracy known as iraq in the middle east but mr bush laying out that vision tonight aaron we are told this is a president who will follow the advice of his military commanders but who does not want to wait long no one here at the white house expects saddam hussein and his sons to accept this ultimatum they

[01:10:01 \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tvgb9nJrVVA&t=4201s\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tvgb9nJrVVA&t=4201s)

his sons to accept this ultimatum they are telling us as early as wednesday night the president could be back in the oval office signaling that military confrontation has begun he will not wait long in part because of the fears of those terrorist attacks here at home and on u.s troops overseas but we are told this president will listen to the military commanders but when he says 48 hours we should not look much beyond that unless there are some complicating factors in the field for the beginning of military confrontation well the clock is the clock is ticking now john it is not unusual after the president speaks that administration officials then fan out around the country talking to editorial boards talking to friendly audiences uh talking to reporters and the like

uh selling the policy is there any sense that this policy needs to be sold or has the speech today essentially tonight been the sales job this is the primary sales job of the next 48 hours the president has no public events tomorrow the administration says this is not a political campaign in as much as they believe they have the support of the american people right now they believe the president solidified his court his support with congress today the next key moment we are told will be the president sitting at his desk in the oval office saying military action has begun the one caveat of course is if this ultimatum is accepted no one at the bush white house believes it will be no but it's the last hope there is to avoid war so those who need something to hang on and a lot of us need something to hang on in moments like this we'll hang on that at least for a bit thank you john john king well if there's one institution that's been left out in the cold uh by the president's declaration tonight it's the united nations at one point the president said the u.n security council has not lived up to its responsibilities so we will rise to ours cnn's u.n correspondent richard roth is with us richard i dare say that there are those at the u.n including the secretary general himself who would take issue with the president on that point well the secretary general judy uh knows full

[01:12:00 \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tvqb9nJrVVA&t=4320s\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tvqb9nJrVVA&t=4320s)

the secretary general judy uh knows full well that the un's greatest task lies ahead the u.s and uk seem to be giving it to the u.n to handle humanitarian issues post-war reconciliation and reconstruction so the un is not totally out of it but in terms of the security council here there's a great divide that still stands between the us and uk and on the other side france and russia and the president making it clear while knocking the security council he said quote some members of the security council threatening to veto any united nations security council resolution and he certainly expressed displeasure with that also the president taking time to say this is a legal action if he should choose to order military force he said this is not a question of authority it's a question of will and he cited many of the security council resolutions that are on the books some legal scholars some diplomats question whether it's truly legal the us says language found in other resolutions including the last one unanimously passed warning of serious consequences if there's no immediate cooperation gives washington the full authority judy all right uh richard roth uh reporting uh from the united nations uh where it is uh there are gonna be some hard feelings aaron even as richard said they're focused on the future they're not they're not in a position where they have they have the luxury of looking back on what's just happened but uh having said that it's a pretty unprecedented split that we've seen at the u.n one of the places uh that there is near unanimity on uh removing saddam hussein from power and doing it as soon as possible is kuwait wolf blitzer is there wolf good evening again to you good evening once again uh aaron there's no doubt that u.s troops are prepared and they're prepared to move once the president gives the order 48 hours from now that's possible that order could come as quickly as that cnn's miles o'brien is standing by in atlanta take a look at how the u.s and its coalition partners are arrayed for a possible war

[01:14:00 \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tvqb9nJrVVA&t=4440s\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tvqb9nJrVVA&t=4440s)

partners are arrayed for a possible war right now miles yes wolf we're going to take a look at the troop build up the location of the aircraft carriers and the aircraft and we'll compare that somewhat to the situation in 1991 it's slightly different than it was back then and to help uh guide us through all of this we turn to one of our retired generals who is now a military analyst for us uh retired general david grain joining us from chicago general grange good to have you with us good evening big picture here many fewer troops the idea from the pentagon's perspective is to put more oomph per troop uh is that really the way it's going to play out do you think well i think so you know the the military has learned a lot from the 91 war there's been about 10 to 12 years of build up in this region just in case there was a contingency like this uh the technology has improved vastly the training regimen of these units involved is still as uh tough as it's always been at least since the last in the 90s i'd say so i would say those troops are ready to go from all services uh regardless of when it's when it when the word is given and how long the duration may last all right i put the map in motion while you're talking general gaines first of all let's talk about what's going on right here in the persian gulf uh in 1991 there were four aircraft carrier station there today three aircraft carriers we're told there are about a hundred and thirty thousand u.s troops in kuwait and another uh 25 000 british troops there does that seem like enough in that quadrant of this map well you know then they have troops elsewhere as you know but

that's uh you i don't think you'd want to have more than three aircraft carriers in that particular location and again it's access to targets and dispersion and cycling of the different air sorties in the troops on the ground you have approximately two cores with a lot of support as well to keep those cores moving there are mix of heavy armored and air assault and airborne capability so you have a three-dimensional maneuver

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so you have a three-dimensional maneuver capability with the forces that are arrayed around kuwait right now all right while you were talking we took a tour around the arabian peninsula to the red sea and what we have right now is two aircraft carriers 91 same situation looking at the big picture when you look at all the armed services with air power about a thousand aircraft in the region right now as compared to eighteen hundred in nineteen ninety one is that something that is significant of course we got a lot more smart weaponry now don't we well a lot of these aircraft can do uh tenfold what an aircraft could do in the first war especially some of the more advanced bombers so not only do you have fighters to deal with enemy fighters and provide protection for bombing runs but you have quite an array of refueling aircraft as well from not only the united states but from great britain as was mentioned earlier today so i would say that the capabilities of the aircraft are much greater than the first war all right while you were talking we took a move around to turkey and then this is uh perhaps the biggest question mark of the evening in 1991 numerous aircraft sorties out of incirlik and other bases in turkey uh today it's unclear what the turkish role is going to be there's going to be a vote tomorrow in the parliament uh we have the the specter of 60 000 plus troops bobbing in the waters there that's the fourth uh cavalry or fourth infantry i should say um waiting for somewhere to go uh presumably the idea was to send them uh over turkey and into iraq which is over here that's not gonna happen how big a setback is that well that still could happen uh but it wouldn't happen maybe at the beginning of hostilities it could be a follow-on force that would help secure the northern part of iraq after a war began but again they could move down through the red sea and around to kuwait to reinforce the units that are down in kuwait moving north so just because that unit those units have not been authorized by uh turkey to come in from the north

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uh turkey to come in from the north other units could take down targets in the north launch from elsewhere all right looking as i highlight the target of iraq there the focus of our attention and looking at the big numbers there 500 000 versus uh potentially 250 000 troops that's a misprint there but the key here is this is not exactly what the powell doctrine called for which is the use of overwhelming force quickly uh general grange do you feel as if there are enough troops in the region to do the job personally i'd like to see uh some more combat maneuver troops however it's a lot been learned a lot has been learned since the 91 war and the capabilities of the iraqi army it is not quite as capable as it was in those days so with audacity and speed and the mobility of the forces that are arrayed uh i think they'll do all right but it would be nice to have a few other units in the area to take care of the unknown the inspected that was sure to happen once the war starts david grains retired general the united states army thanks as always it's always a trade-off wolf between speed and sheer power wolf a lot of similarities a lot of differences miles between 1991 and now at that time the iraqis had a million men army now perhaps 400 000 at that time the u.s mission and its coalition partners was to liberate kuwait now the us has a much broader mission to go in and to remove saddam hussein from power we're going to be watching all of this unfolding the president of the united states tonight warning that saddam hussein and his sons had 48 hours to either leave or face war judy well wolf and miles and general grant as we consider the audacious might of the u.s military it's worth thinking about some of the lines that president bush spoke tonight addressing the iraqi military directly and let's bring in our pentagon correspondent jamie mcintyre jamie we heard the president say i urge every member of the iraqi military don't fight for a dying regime it's not worth your own your own life and he went on to give them very specific advice well he

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give them very specific advice well he said they'd be getting very specific instructions from the us military about how to surrender how to permit what he called a peaceful entry of the u.s invasion force into iraq it's interesting it comes as u.s intelligence says that the republican guard the uh perhaps some of saddam hussein's best trained best equipped troops are dispersing around baghdad in defensive positions now the question is are they dispersing to live to fight another day or are they dispersing so they can live through the assault and surrender on another day now president bush part of the psychological operations his message was broadcast translated over a u s military plane directly to the iraqi the u.s is peop to hope that in the face of what is a certain victory by the u.s that iraqi troops will surrender at this point though they don't know whether it's a reality or just wishful thinking all right jamie mcintyre he told them specifically not to burn any oil wells and not to uh use weapons of mass destruction erin and that war crime trials would be held and i was just following orders would be no excuse no excuse me no excuse the the president talked tonight about this being a broad coalition and and i suppose it depends a bit on what how you define broad it's certainly a coalition in any case but in many respects this is an american moment mostly americans are going to fight this war and the country is reacting now to being on the brink of war up next american opinion on this conflict how americans view the us effort to win international support for a war an effort that ultimately failed showdown iraq on the brink of war continues after a short break reverse we're here to stop the united states government from perpetuating a terrible crime against humanity in our name

[01:22:06 \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tvqb9nJrVVA&t=4926s\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tvqb9nJrVVA&t=4926s)

[Music] clearly many americans feel strongly either for or against this war we don't know how many of them were listening tonight aaron but we assume a lot of people were and one of the things though you could be sure of is that reporters all over the country are talking to people now get a sense of what they thought the president uh what they thought of the president's talk tonight pollsters you could also be sure are out to put some numerical value on people's feelings we don't quite have the polling back yet but we do have a sense of where the country is in the last few days as we ramped up to this moment it's been very clear for a couple of days where this was all headed certainly it was uh yesterday and pollsters have been working on that and bill schneider's job among others is to figure out what the pollsters are telling us and mr schneider joins us from our washington bureau bill well aaron i'd use one word anxious americans are clearly anxious but not only over the prospect of war when we ask people if they're satisfied with the way things are going in the country the level of dissatisfaction is higher than it's been in 70 years and that precisely mirrors people's bleak assessment of the nation's economy 64 percent say the economy is in lousy shape but americans are also feeling less confident about the threat of terrorism a year ago just over 50 percent of the public thought the us and its allies were winning the war on terrorism now even after the capture of a top al qaeda operative only

[01:24:00 \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tvqb9nJrVVA&t=5040s\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tvqb9nJrVVA&t=5040s)

capture of a top al qaeda operative only 37 percent you see here believe that the us is winning the prevailing view now is that neither side is winning that war for americans aaron this is all about 9 11. another 9 11 as the president described it in his remarks tonight the public is convinced that saddam hussein has ties to terrorist groups that will strike again at the united states if he is not disarmed and like president bush the american public has run out of patience nearly 60 percent believe that u.s efforts to win international support for military action against iraq have taken too long already that they should not be given more time enough already is the american point of view it is the one argument i think above all else that resonated for the president as he laid out the case uh that that 9 11 or in the shadow of 9 11 at least something had to be done about iraq that's right judy well as we consider the public reaction the public debate in all of this and the obvious military risks it is also clear that the president faces severe serious political risks uh in going ahead with military action uh tour against iraq let's bring in our senior political correspondent candy crowley you know candy at a time like this it's almost unseemly to talk about politics but in the broadest possible sense this president is staking everything on this war absolutely and there's because you talk about the political ramifications of something uh doesn't intimate that there are political uh motivation behind it but every policy

action has political ramifications and it's very hard duty to overestimate what this means for president bush and for his political future as you can imagine this is a man who has always said look if i've got political capital i'm going to spend it and he is spending it all on this war if it goes

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spending it all on this war if it goes badly if there are ramifications uh that are intolerable and if the piece does not work out the way he envisions it this is going to be a very grim next election year for george bush can candy just quickly any indication of how much all this was taken into consideration uh as they made this decision i mean we know as you said we suggested karl rove the president's chief political adviser has been in on some of these meetings we would never suggest that this in any way had anything to do with the president's decisions but the calculus is always there you know it has to be i mean there are people whose entire job is to sit around and worry about the political implications of whatever is going to happen i would judge however if the president were going to be moved by politics on this particular issue uh that the politics are kind of in the other way so you know we're going to have to wait and see what the ramifications are but there clearly are people at the white house and elsewhere along the democratic campaign trail that have weighed what this war means uh to the candidates and to the president should he seek re-election it is going to shape uh the rest of his presidency and his effort to win re-election candy crowley thanks very much so aaron uh everything at stake it's uh it's extraordinary i mean it the the the military risks the political gambles the impact on the economy all of it we are an extraordinary time wolf blitzer is in kuwait and aaron there's no doubt that the political pressures on tony blair the british prime minister are enormous as well those pressures hit home for him very much today and of course in the coming days they will be quite intense let's turn to cnn's finola sweeney to get a little bit more on what's going on in london right now as the us and its coalition partners specifically on the military front britain and australia prepare for war fanula yes it has been an intense uh day

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fanula yes it has been an intense uh day politically here in london it has seen an emerging emergency cabinet meeting being held followed subsequently by a resignation the first resignation of a cabinet minister over this iraq crisis another is expected to follow perhaps later this morning and it also saw the foreign secretary jack straw go to the house of commons where he announced there would be an emergency debate on going to war with iraq on tuesday afternoon as a result of saddam hussein's persistent refusal to meet the united nations demands and the inability of the security council to adopt a further resolution the cabinet has decided to ask the house to support the united kingdom's participation in military operations should they be necessary with the objective of ensuring the disarmament of iraq's weapons of mass destruction and thereby the maintenance of the authority of the united nations well shortly after jack straw spoke that cabinet minister who resigned earlier in the day robin cook took to the floor of the house of commons and amid extraordinary scenes he explained his reason for not supporting a war against iraq and this really is a problem that tony blair faces throughout his labor party another cabinet minister as i said expected to resign or certainly says she's pondering her future overnight following the resignation of robin cook but the problem for tony blair 24 hours from now is that as the house of commons debates this possible war with iraq as many as 160 labour mps members of tony blair's own party could be voting against him and just to give you a sense of what's going on here in the morning newspapers which have just arrived see one of the broad sheets saying diplomacy dies now it's war and also mentioning there the resignation of robin cook all the broadsheets here speaking about how cook is the first casualty of war the

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is the first casualty of war the independent also saying the same thing the talking is over now the world must confront the reality of war and finally the tabloid newspapers here which have a huge circulation the anti-war daily mirror saying unlawful unethical and unstoppable and the pro-war sun newspaper is saying green light for war that's how it looks in london overnight vanilla sweeney in london vanilla thanks for that uh report

appreciate it very much i'm joined here by our own cnn's christian i'm on christian were you surprised that the british prime minister tony blair after all these weeks of saying he wouldn't do it unless there was another u.n security council resolution well now he's doing it and there's no u.n security council resolution you know it was clear even before today before yesterday at the azores that there wouldn't be a second security council resolution and it did appear that he had made his peace with that to the extent possible and he said that he was going with president bush come what may if it came to war well it does appear that it has come to that but remember that the majority of the world don't actually support this military action and while france has taken most of the heat for promising a veto and therefore according to the us and the uk collapsing diplomacy well the us couldn't even get its own neighbors on board canada and mexico so there's been a lot of diplomatic chaos really as many people many commentators have said but as i say france has taken the brunt of the recriminations and we go now to paris and cnn's jim bitterman christian france got hammered all day long today both by tony blair and by colin powell and even by president bush this evening at times it almost sounded as if jacques sharok was the real enemy and not saddam hussein but in any case i think we heard from president bush tonight some of the things that have hindered the u.s diplomacy efforts over the last few months especially the president's willingness to speak for the rest of the world uh at the same time he kind of

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world uh at the same time he kind of vaguely insults it he said that the rest of the world shares the assessment of the united states about saddam hussein but doesn't share the resolve well i think there are a lot of people here and elsewhere that might disagree with that the french are very resolute about disarming sodom hussein they just disagree about the way it should be done they've made the point over and over and over again that far more weapons were taken out of saddam hussein's hands uh in by weapons inspectors in the period after the gulf war than by the military during the gulf war and this is kind of really confirmed to the french and others uh what the president is doing tonight confirms him that disarmament is not really what the united states is after here but rather government overthrow and if that's the case uh then the french don't agree with it along with people like uh the pope and the secretary general of the u.n and people on the security council that represent a billion and a half people worldwide christiane jim also in his address to the nation tonight president bush said that the terrorist threat for the whole world would be diminished by the removal of saddam hussein well of course the french president and many others including in russia believe that the reverse may be true that this kind of military action could spark more anti-american anti-western terrorism we go now to cnn's jill dougherty in moscow that's definitely true in fact even tonight you have russia arguing that saddam hussein is not an imminent threat to the world president putin today saying that any step toward war would be a grave mistake marked as he said with the most serious consequences and it would ultimately lead to the destabilization of the international situation you had igor even off the foreign minister also arguing that there is no legal basis in resolution 1441 for the united states to take military action and at this point however you do have some attempt at fence mending you could

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some attempt at fence mending you could say between the united states and russia after all they got very far apart on this issue and now you have the russians at least saying that this the differences that they have over iraq should not hold hostage the entire relationship that's certainly the view of of russia and the united states has pulled back somewhat and said that even though there are differences it should not torpedo the relationship um however you do have this evening information coming from the дума the russian parliament that they may put off looking at the treaty of moscow which is that the strategic arms agreement between president putin and president bush now saying that they may put that off even though the united states senate just a couple of weeks ago passed it unanimously back to you [Music] jill we will be watching to see what exactly the posture of russia and paris will be once the war starts for now we go back to aaron and judy christian thank you very much well uh it's pretty clear the ultimatum is on the table tonight for saddam hussein seek exile get out of the country in 24 hours or face war now many people believe saddam will actually leave but what if he did where might he go well coming up next we're going to look at the countries

which just might roll out the welcome mat for saddam hussein president bush says that hussein has 48 hours to accept exile or face war will saddam hussein accept that threat from president bush let's bring in our analysts ken pollock joining us now everybody seems to think can the prospect of vasadam pussin and his sons going into excel very remote almost impossible do you believe there's even a chance he might accept that offer no i honestly don't wolf i mean it's possible that at the last minute he might try some bizarre negotiations to

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might try some bizarre negotiations to give people the sense he might but he's made it very clear he told uh he told dan rather we were born in iraq we will die here and i think everyone expects that that is exactly what he'll do what about his two sons uh uday and ku say the offer was made to them as well they're not going to disobey their father there's no question about that what's more if there is anyone in iraq who is here or in the entire middle east who is hated more than saddam was saying that person could only be uday saddam saddam's oldest son who while saddam may be a mass murderer uday is a sadistic killer and has been has done some of the most horrible things imaginable to men and women over the course of his term uh as saddam's son he also knows that if they went into exile they would not last very long the notion that the iraqi military uh is hearing what the president is saying don't fight otherwise you will be tried for war crimes if in fact you use weapons of mass destruction do you believe that message is getting through yeah i think it probably is i think that there are iraqi officers who are listening as best they can i think that they are picking up the leaflets that's something that we saw all during the gulf war we had iraqis who are coming across the line carrying the leaflets so i think they understand the message the question is what kind of a position are they going to find themselves in saddam is putting his own security personnel his most loyal troops he is deploying them forward with the combat units to try to force them to obey his orders on pain of death and i think the question for them is which death seems more certain death at saddam's hands or death at the hands of a war crimes tribunal if they're found guilty of actually using these weapons of mass destruction and very briefly ken over these 48 hours before the u.s strikes do you sense that the iraqi military might launch the first strike itself i think it unlikely wolf you can't rule anything out certainly our troops have to be prepared but saddam's capabilities

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to be prepared but saddam's capabilities to do real harm to our troops are extremely limited about the only thing you do is galvanize us into action ken pollock our rock analyst ken thanks very much uh christian the 48 hours that's going to be critical right now and of course for the arab world what is remarkable is that there hasn't been the kind of uprising or mass demonstrations from one end to the other that some people had predicted many countries including some of the us allies jordan and egypt have pretty much thought war was inevitable for a long time now now we go to rule i mean in jordan for the arab perspective christiane it's four am in the morning here and there is no official reaction it is chilly here and the argument that president bush made he has made before and the reaction we got on these arguments on the street were skeptical people just don't buy the justification for this war what george bush the president calls liberation people here see as occupation of another arab country and they say there is no international legitimacy to it arab governments on the other hand have no love loss for saddam hussein however they are deeply concerned from the fallout of such a war they believe that instability in iraq may lead to instability in the region and as king abdullah jordan had put it he said a long conflict in iraq may along with the conflict raging between the palestinians and the israelis is something that the region cannot bear christian well ruler will be watching and certainly here in kuwait which was invaded by salaam hussein 12 years ago here they want it to happen and they want it to happen pretty quickly wolf and by all accounts it's going to happen and kuwaitis are gearing up uh we'll be watching we'll be reporting we'll be here for the duration uh for christiana for thanks very much back to judy and aaron in washington well there are so many questions thank you all there's so many questions that uh will be answered i suppose in the days ahead one question was clearly answered

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ahead one question was clearly answered tonight that the clock is ticking it's 48 hours but we don't know is how the arab world will react we don't know how the war will go we don't know if this audacious plan of shock and awe will do all that it's designed to do as quickly as it's designed to do it we don't know any of those things yet but we're all going to watch it unfold apparently that much seems pretty certain we all seem to be at a time like this aaron i think fixated on a calendar i think it was months ago that president bush set himself on this course that we find ourselves coming to the end of now in which he said this is a country that we have got to do something about this is a leader who needs to be taken out if he won't disarm here we find ourselves six seven months later we are on the brink of war he is saying to the iraqi people i'm we're not coming after you we are coming after the lawless men who have ruled your country the tyrant won't be around anymore it is uh you know it's uh it's it's a promise that uh he he probably can deliver on but what the reaction is going to be the aftermath of this war is i think going to be a much bigger headache for this president the the occupation it's not a word the administration is comfortable with understandably the occupation of iraq is a complicated thing because iraq is a complicated place it is uh in some respects like yugoslavia there are lots of different constituent groups different religious groups different ethnic groups all have been waiting in some respects for a moment of liberation and how the americans and the british will keep them all in line is one of the questions that will apparently become clear to us if not in the days ahead than certainly in the months we would urge you all for more information of course uh tuned to cnn.com for christiane and wolf who are in kuwait for aaron brown i'm judy woodruff stay tuned now for larry king live followed by news night with aaron brown see you then

[01:42:01 \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tvgb9nJrVVA&t=6121s\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tvgb9nJrVVA&t=6121s)

see you then [Music]

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